

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is being filed together with the original application papers in the present application.

Claims 1 to 15 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 12 and 15 are independent. Claims 8 and 13 have been amended herein.

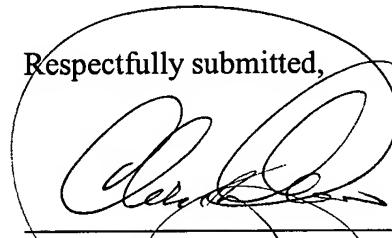
Claims 8 and 13 have been amended herein to improve their form. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application papers. No new matter has been added.

Applicants believe that the present amendments merely are formal in nature and do not narrow the scope of the claims.

By separate paper filed concurrently herewith, Applicants have submitted an Information Disclosure Statement identifying information that may be deemed pertinent to examination of the subject application.

Applicants believe the subject application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the subject application respectfully are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants
Christopher Philip Wrist
Registration No. 32,078

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CPW/kkv

DC_MAIN 143829v1